

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-4 without prejudice.

Claims 5-9 and 12-14 were previously cancelled without prejudice.

10. (Previously Presented) A bone-boring device, comprising:
 at least one curved needle adapted for extending to bore a hole in a bone;
 a base holding said needle and adapted for being placed against a bone;
 a handle coupled to the base, the handle capable of receiving a force in a particular direction for associating the device with a region that is at least substantially adjacent bone;
 and

a needle retractor, which retracts said needle when [[a]] the force on said handle [[in a particular direction]] is lower than a predetermined amount, prior to said base retreating from said bone region in response to a lowering of the force below the predetermined amount.

11. (Amended Herein) A bone-boring device, comprising:
 at least one curved needle adapted for extending to bore a hole in a bone;
 a base holding said needle and adapted for being placed against a bone;
 a handle coupled to the base, the handle capable of receiving a force in a particular direction for associating the device with a region that is at least substantially adjacent bone;
 and

a needle advancer, which advances said needle only when a force on said handle in a particular direction is higher than a predetermined amount, said predetermined amount [[force]] assuring that said base is urged against said bone.

[[and a needle advancer, which advances said needle only when a force on said handle in a particular direction is higher than a predetermined amount, said predetermined force assuring that said base is urged against said bone.]]

15. (Amended Herein) A self-aligning device for boring into bone, comprising:
 a boring head having at least two boring tips;
 a body;
 a handle attached to said body; and
 a hinge coupling said boring head to said body at a location substantially equidistant from said boring tips.

16. (Previously Amended) A device according to claim 15, wherein said boring tips comprise drill bits.

17. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 15, wherein said boring tips comprise boring needles.

18. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 15, wherein said head includes a power source for activating said boring tips.

19. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 15, wherein said boring tips face said handle.

20. (Previously presented) A method for forming a channel in a bone, comprising the steps of:

 providing a device capable of drilling a hole in bone and of advancing a needle,
 drilling two holes in a cortex of the bone with the device; and
 using the device to advance at least one needle through said drilled holes through a medulla of said bone.

21. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 20, wherein said holes are perpendicular to a surface of said bone.

22. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 20, wherein said at least one needle comprises two needles that meet inside the bone.

23. (Amended Herein) Apparatus for forming a channel in a bone, comprising:
 at least two drill bits for drilling into a bone; ~~[[and detecting a channel formed~~
~~therethrough and an aperture from the outside of said bit to said channel; and]]~~
each of said drill bits having an aperture on a side thereof; and
 at least one needle adapted to fit through at least one of said apertures to pass a suture
therethrough.

Please cancel claim 24 without prejudice.

25. (Amended Herein) Apparatus according to claim ~~[[24]]~~ 23, wherein said drill bits are parallel.

26. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said at least one needle comprises at least two needles.

27. (Amended Herein) Apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said at least one needle comprises a curved needle~~[[s]]~~.

Please cancel claim 28 without prejudice.